

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend page 4 of the specification in the paragraph located between lines 14-20 as follows:

A1
 As shown in FIG. 3, the BTE communication device 300 comprises a hooked shaped housing having a form factor to fit around the typical human ear 200. The housing 302 houses electronic circuitry (not shown) 304, 306 that receives and processes audio signals. The housing 302 has a concave "inner" surface (also referred to as a first section 318) that fits behind and around a user's outer ear 200, i.e., the inner surface is that part of the exterior surface of the housing that abuts or makes contact with the sulcus 218 of the ear.

[Amend page 6, beginning at line 28 for paragraph bridging pages 6-7 as follows:]

A2
 The self-retaining element 316 contains compound curves in two planes that contribute to the way the fit and the coupling is achieved. When attached to the ear 200, the self-retaining element 316 causes a gentle pinch (i.e., squeeze) 500 across the pinna 204 between the outer (i.e., sulcus) 218 and inner (i.e., concha) 206 portions of the ear 200. The anatomically curved element 316 contacts the skin inside a fold in the concha bowl (i.e., cimba conchae) 220 just under the inferior crus 216. Due to the nature of the shape of the self-retaining element 316, it fits into the ear in a way that it provides positive retention with the ear's anatomy in the X-axis, the Y-axis, and the Z-axis, further enhancing retention. The area of contact is directly opposite the "surface of symmetry" 222 on the sulcus 218. There is a nominal space between the BTE communication device 300 and the self-retaining element 316 to allow for the natural thickness of the ear 200. The BTE communication device 300 is fully supported by its contact on the sulcus 218, and is "locked" onto the ear 200 by a gentle spring contact 400 provided by the self-retaining element 316 400 as illustrated in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6. The thickness of this section between the sulcus 218 and the cimba conchae 220 happens to be another area in which there is very little anthropometric deviation across a wide range of ear sizes.

On page 7, first paragraph lines 3-12, should be amended as follows:

A3
The first section 318 of the housing rests on the sulcus 218 of the ear, and the positive retention of the communication device to the ear results from a space between the first section and the self-retaining element 316. An anatomical ear thickness measurement study was performed on fifty-eight participants, including men and women ranging from 88 to 296 pounds. The average thickness measured between the sulcus 218 and the cimba conchae 220 under the inferior crus 216 was 0.118 inches, with a deviation of +0.027 and - 0.020 inches. This range is easily accommodated because of the flexible properties of the self-retaining element 316. The preferred dimension across the space between the first section 318 of the housing and the self-retaining element 316 is 0.118 inches +/- .054. The space between the first section 318 of the housing and the self-retaining element 316 becomes gradually smaller as the self-retaining element extends further away from the sound delivery tube. Referring back to FIG. 4, the "S" shape self-retaining element 316 is designed specifically to conform to the range of thickness. The shape of the self-retaining element 316 consists of a broad spring contacting area designed to minimize the force in any one area, increasing user comfort.